

1919, following the armistice of November 1918;

Whereas the 41st Division was reorganized and Federally recognized on January 3, 1930, with the headquarters of the 41st Division located at Portland, Oregon;

Whereas the 41st Division participated in a set of training exercises in 1937 where Oregon soldiers forded the Nisqually River in western Washington in a daring night crossing;

Whereas, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the 41st Division set up defensive positions along the coastline of the United States from the Canadian border to Camp Clatsop in Oregon;

Whereas the 41st Division was reorganized as the 41st Infantry Division on February 17, 1942, and, by the following May, was one of the first divisions of the Armed Forces to deploy overseas to Australia for jungle and amphibious warfare training;

Whereas the 41st Infantry Division participated in the campaigns in New Guinea and the Philippines, enduring some of the most vicious jungle warfare of any allied force during the war;

Whereas the bloodiest engagement of the 41st Infantry Division occurred on the island of Biak against more than 10,000 determined Japanese troops;

Whereas members of the 41st Infantry Division had been known as “Sunsetters” after their unit’s setting sun insignia but earned a second nickname, “the Jungleers”, in recognition of their experience and expertise in jungle warfare following the service of the unit in Biak and across the Pacific Theater;

Whereas the 41st Division was inactivated on December 31, 1945, on the island of Honshu in Japan;

Whereas, in 1968, the Oregonian element of the 41st Infantry Division was reorganized and redesignated as the 41st Infantry Brigade within the Oregon National Guard, transferring the colors and honors of its division predecessor;

Whereas elements of the 41st Infantry Brigade—

(1) deployed to—

(A) Saudi Arabia in 1999 as part of Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia;

(B) the Sinai Peninsula in 2001 in support of the Multinational Force and Observers and Operation Enduring Freedom;

(C) Iraq in 2003 and 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

(D) Afghanistan in 2006 in support of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix; and

(2) were activated in 2005 to help provide disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in Louisiana and Texas, respectively;

Whereas the 41st Infantry Brigade was reorganized and redesignated as the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team on September 1, 2008;

Whereas the entire 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed to Iraq in 2009, marking the first full deployment for the unit since World War II, to provide base and convoy security in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas elements of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in 2014 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, and the Resolute Support mission led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

Whereas the citizen-soldiers of the 41st Division, the 41st Infantry Division, and the 41st Infantry Brigade—

(1) came from a diverse set of backgrounds;

(2) were employed in a wide range of civilian professions;

(3) brought their civilian experience to bear in fulfilling their military duties;

(4) served the United States selflessly; and

(5) fought with bravery and honor across many generations; and

Whereas the citizen-soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team continue to uphold this tradition, protecting Oregon and serving the United States both at home and abroad through their courage and dedication: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) 2017 as the 100th anniversary of the formation of the 41st Division; and

(B) the century of service to the United States by the 41st Division;

(2) expresses gratitude to the many Oregonians and others who served in the 41st Division, the 41st Infantry Division, the 41st Infantry Brigade, and the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team;

(3) honors the memory of the members of the 41st Division, the 41st Infantry Division, the 41st Infantry Brigade, and the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team who have fallen in the line of duty; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) General Michael E. Stencel, the Adjutant General of Oregon; and

(B) Lieutenant Colonel Eric Riley, commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 106—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 106

Whereas principle IV of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 states, “The participating States will respect the territorial integrity of each of the participating States. Accordingly, they will refrain from any action inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations against the territorial integrity, political independence or the unity of any participating State, and in particular from any such action constituting a threat or use of force. . . and participating States will likewise refrain from making each other’s territory the object of military occupation.”;

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations states, “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.”;

Whereas, since 1993, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia have been reaffirmed by the international community in all United Nations Security Council resolutions on Georgia;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has pursued a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Russia over Georgia’s territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

Whereas the recognition by the Government of the Russian Federation of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia on August 26, 2008, was in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and contradicting principles of Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the Charter of the United Nations, and the August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement;

Whereas the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, signed on January 9, 2009, underscores that “support for

each other’s sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relations.”;

Whereas, according to the Government of Georgia’s “State Strategy on Occupied Territories”, the Government of Georgia has committed itself to a policy of peaceful engagement, the protection of economic and human rights, freedom of movement, and the preservation of cultural heritage, language, and identity for the people of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

Whereas the August 2008 war between the Russian Federation and Georgia resulted in civilian and military casualties, the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and large numbers of internally displaced persons;

Whereas the annual United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the “Status of Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia” recognizes that the right of return of all internally displaced persons and refugees and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity, as well as their property rights, remains unfulfilled;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation is building barbed wire fences and installing, so-called “border signs” and other artificial barriers along the occupation line and depriving the people residing within the occupied regions and in the adjacent areas of their fundamental rights and freedoms, including, the freedom of movement, family life, education in their native language, and other civil and economic rights;

Whereas the August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement, agreed to by the Governments of the Russian Federation and Georgia—

(1) provides that all troops of the Russian Federation shall be withdrawn to pre-war positions;

(2) provides that free access shall be granted to organizations providing humanitarian assistance in regions affected by the violence in August 2008; and

(3) launched the Geneva International Discussions between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on November 23, 2010, President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili declared before the European Parliament that “Georgia will never use force to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty”;

Whereas, on March 7, 2013, the bipartisan Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia on Basic Directions of Georgia’s Foreign Policy confirmed “Georgia’s commitment for the non-use of force, pledged by the President of Georgia in his address to the international community from the European Parliament in Strasbourg on November 23, 2010”;

Whereas, on June 27, 2014, in the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union, Georgia reaffirmed its commitment “to restore its territorial integrity in pursuit of a peaceful and lasting conflict resolution, of pursuing the full implementation of” the August 12, 2008, ceasefire agreement;

Whereas, despite the unilateral legally binding commitment to the non-use of force pledged by the Government of Georgia, the Government of the Russian Federation still refuses to reciprocate with its own legally binding non-use of force pledge;

Whereas the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) is still denied access to the occupied regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, despite the fact that its mandate covers the whole territory of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues to enhance its military

bases illegally stationed in occupied regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia without the consent of the Government of Georgia or a mandate from the United Nations or other multilateral organizations;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues the process of aggression carried out against Georgia since the early 1990s and occupation of Georgia's territories following the August 2008 Russia-Georgia War;

Whereas the March 5, 2017, closure of two crossing points on the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) with Abkhazia in the villages of Nabakevi and Otobaia violated fundamental rights to freedom of movement, privacy, and family life, as well as access to education and health care for the local population, contravening commitments to work towards enhanced security and improved living conditions for the conflict-affected population;

Whereas President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin has ordered his government to conclude an agreement to effectively incorporate the military of Georgia's South Ossetia region into the Russian armed forces' command structure, thereby impeding the peace process;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation's policy vis-à-vis Georgia and the alarming developments in the region illustrate that the Government of the Russian Federation does not accept the independent choice of sovereign states and strives for the restoration of zones of influence in the region, including through the use of force, occupation, factual annexation, and other aggressive acts; and

Whereas the United States applied the doctrine of non-recognition in 1940 to the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and every Presidential administration of the United States honored this doctrine until independence was restored to those countries in 1991: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the policy, popularly known as the "Stimson Doctrine", of the United States to not recognize territorial changes effected by force, and affirms that this policy should continue to guide the foreign policy of the United States;

(2) condemns the military intervention and occupation of Georgia by the Russian Federation and its continuous illegal activities along the occupation line in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

(3) calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw its recognition of Georgia's territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia as independent countries, to refrain from acts and policies that undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and to take steps to fulfill all the terms and conditions of the August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

(4) stresses the necessity of progress on core issues within the Geneva International Discussions, including a legally binding pledge from the Government of the Russian Federation on the non-use of force, the establishment of international security arrangements in the occupied regions of Georgia, and the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their origin;

(5) urges the United States Government to declare unequivocally that the United States will not under any circumstances recognize the de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russian Federation over any part of Georgia, its airspace, or its territorial waters, including Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

(6) urges the President to deepen cooperation with the Government of Georgia in all areas of the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, including Georgia's advancement towards Euro-Atlantic integration;

(7) urges the President to place emphasis on enhancing Georgia's security through joint military training and providing self-defensive capabilities in order to enhance Georgia's independent statehood and national sovereignty; and

(8) affirms that a free, united, democratic, and sovereign Georgia is in the long-term interest of the United States as it promotes peace and stability in the region.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 107—CONGRATULATING THE RIFLE TEAM OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY ON WINNING THE 2017 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 107

Whereas, in 2017, the West Virginia University Mountaineers rifle team (referred to in this preamble as the "Mountaineers") completed an undefeated regular season with a record of 12 wins and no losses and won the Great America Rifle Conference championship for the eighth consecutive year;

Whereas, on March 11, 2017, the Mountaineers won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Rifle Championship;

Whereas the 2017 NCAA Rifle Championship is the fifth consecutive title for the Mountaineers;

Whereas the Mountaineers have now won 19 national championships, securing team NCAA titles in 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017;

Whereas the Mountaineers have won more national championships than any other rifle program in the United States;

Whereas the Mountaineers shot a championship-record 4723 aggregate score at the 2017 NCAA Rifle Championship;

Whereas freshman Milica Babic won the 2017 NCAA air rifle championship;

Whereas freshman Morgan Phillips won the NCAA smallbore title and earned the Top Performer Award of the NCAA Rifle Championship;

Whereas the Mountaineers swept the NCAA individual titles in 2017, the fifth time that shooters from the Mountaineers have swept the individual championships; and

Whereas Head Coach Jon Hammond and all members of the Mountaineers, including Jack Anderson, Will Anti, Milica Babic, Noah Barker, Elizabeth Gratz, Jean-Pierre Lucas, Morgan Phillips, and Ginny Thrasher, completed a record performance to claim the 2017 national title: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates the West Virginia University rifle team on winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Rifle Championship.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 30, 2017, in the President's room, S-216 in the Capitol, in order to vote on the nomination of George "Sonny" Perdue, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

#### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to consider the nomination of Honorable Heather A. Wilson to be Secretary of the Air Force.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2017, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on Thursday, March 30, 2017, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

#### COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled *The Road Ahead: U.S. Interests, Values, and the American People*.

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, in between votes in S-216, to consider the following: Nomination of Alexander Acosta to serve as Secretary of Labor.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 10 a.m. for Panel I, and from 2 p.m. for Panel II, in room SD-106 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold open hearings entitled *Disinformation: A Primer in Russian Active Measures and Influence Campaigns*.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Melissa Rubenstein, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.